

March 2011

Early Grades

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Ideas from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) <http://eclk.ohs.acf.hhs.gov>

The Early Childhood and Knowledge Center in the Office of Head Start offers tips and resources for the Head Start and Early Head Start community and anyone involved in early childhood education. The Web site provides information on a range of topics, including child development, family and community partnerships, dual language learners, and health

Cooperative Games for Preschoolers: Organized activities can be fun and contribute to children's learning and development. But many traditional games, such as Musical Chairs and Duck, Duck, Goose focus on competition and eliminate children from the fun. In contrast, cooperative games help young children learn to work together, follow directions, listen, and develop problem-solving and movement skills. Here are a few to try:

Help! Children move around while balancing a paper napkin on their head. If the napkin falls, a child is frozen and must stand in place. Another child can touch the frozen player to unfreeze the player.

Robots: Pairs of children take turns being the robot and the commander. The commander tells the robot how to move (forward, backward, stop, go) so he or she can get around obstacles, such as cones, to reach a predetermined goal.

Cooperative musical chairs: The goal of the game is to find ways to **share** (not compete for) the remaining chairs, when the music ends.

Book Picks:

- **The Lion and the Mouse**, by Jerry Pinkney. 2009. Little, Brown
- **Three Little Kittens**, by Jerry Pinkney. 2010. Dial
- **Let's Ear! /¡A Comer! /**, by Pat Mora. Illus. by Maribel Suarez. 2008 Harper-Collins
- **Voyage to the Bunny Planet**, by Rosemary Wells. 2008. Viking

HOPA Mountain's *Together* Campaign Press Release

Each year, Hopa Mountain's *StoryMakers* program partners with community teams of rural and tribal citizen leaders to share more than 14,000 sturdy, colorful board

books and early learning resource materials with Montana families. "By getting books in the hands of caregivers and children, we want to encourage rich early learning experiences at home that can make a big difference in the development of a young child," explained Bonnie Sachatello-Sawyer, executive director of Hopa Mountain. "Reading is just one kind of vital interaction—the key is positive language development through storytelling, singing or just talking together." To learn more about Hopa Mountain's *Together* campaign, download campaign posters and other materials, read about positive parenting tips, and watch a 5-minute video about reading with your child, visit www.hopamountain.org. For information about Hopa Mountain's *StoryMakers* program, please call (406)586-2455. These programs are made possible with generous support from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Women's Opportunity and Resource Development (WORD) through the Montana Parent Information and Resource Center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the Steele-Reese Foundation, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation, the Montana Office of Public Instruction, the Walter L. and Lucille Braun Family Charitable Gift Fund, and Hopa Mountain members.

Hopa Mountain invests in citizen leaders who are working to improve education, ecological health, and economic development in their home towns.

Gifted and Talented

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Please consider the following opportunities for professional development in Gifted Education.

In Billings on April 13th **the Montana Council for Exceptional Children Conference on Diverse Abilities**, will be held at the Holiday Inn Grand.

<https://sites.google.com/site/mceconference/>

Presenter: Mary Ruth Coleman, Ph.D., on "RTI: Meeting the Needs of the Advanced Learner" and "RtI goes to Preschool"

Mary Ruth Coleman, Ph.D., is a senior scientist at the FPG Child Development Institute at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and research associate professor in the School of Education. Her research focuses on students with exceptional learning needs, in particular, students with learning disabilities and students with gifts.



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She has directed several FPG projects. Project U-STARS~PLUS, (Using Science, Talents and Abilities to Recognize Students ~ Promoting Learning in Under-served Students), was a Javits Gifted and Talented Student Education Program. Project ACCESS (Achievement in Content and Curriculum for Every Student's Success) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

In Kalispell, Thursday, April 28 – Saturday, April 30, 2011, **the 31st Annual Montana AGATE Spring Conference "Sharpening Minds with Gifted Education"**

www.mtagate.org



Presenters: Sally Reis, Ph.D. and Terry Neu, Ph.D.

Sally M. Reis is a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor at The University of Connecticut where she also serves as a Principal Investigator for the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented.

Her research interests are related to special populations of gifted and talented students, including: students with learning disabilities, gifted females and diverse groups of talented students. She is also interested in extensions of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model for both gifted and talented students and as a way to expand offerings and provide general enrichment to identify talent and potential in students who have not been previously identified as gifted.

Terry W. Neu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Education at Sacred Heart University, received his Ph.D. from the Talent Development Program at the University of Connecticut where his research focused on high-ability students with disabilities. Dr. Neu has also worked with several of the Jacob K. Javits educational research grants. He recently completed "Helping Boys Succeed in School" which is based on his years of experience working with young men in a variety of different settings.



Library-Information Literacy

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Visit the [Montana Teacher-Librarian Wiki](#) for further information.

Montana Library Association Conference

www.mtlib.org

April 6-9, 2011 in Billings

Connect to a MASTERPIECE. Many English and literature teachers are longtime fans of **MASTERPIECE** on Sunday nights. It's the longest-running, most-honored drama series on

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primetime television—known for its high-quality adaptations of classic works by authors such as Shakespeare, Dickens, Austen, Eliot and James, as well as more contemporary literature and mysteries. In January 2011, MASTERPIECE celebrated its 40th anniversary and, for the occasion, revamped its archive of educator resources with more than **30 title-specific teacher's guides** online, as well as resources for discussing the adaptation of book to film. All the educator resources are *free*. [Click Here to Access Free Teacher's Guides](#)
[Click Here to Access Free Discussion Resources](#)

DailyLit.com sends entire **books via e-mail or RSS**, including many classics that have been featured on MASTERPIECE—in short, customized installments. The site also provides **discussion forums**. [Click Here for More Information](#)

Discuss the Evolution of New Technology. **edWeb.net's Exploring eBooks for K–12** is a forum where educators and industry executives can connect and collaborate together to discuss the evolution of this new technology and its potential for use with students and in the classroom. Anyone involved in education is invited to join the Exploring eBooks for K–12 community. [Click Here to Join eBooks Community](#)

Fetch and Square the Facts. **Google Squared** allows you to fetch and organize facts from across the Web. Google Squared automatically constructs a **table of facts** about any category you specify. [Click Here to Visit Web Site](#)

Share Books That Shaped Your Life. **You Are What You Read** is a **social networking** site sponsored by **Scholastic**. Users post the five books that had the biggest impact on their lives, connect with others through these shared “Bookprints” and learn about new titles. Participating notable people include Bill Gates, Eva Mendes, Damien Hirst, Tony Hawk, Jodi Picoult, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Malcolm Gladwell and former President George H.W. Bush. [Click Here to Visit Web Site](#)

NEA and **Youth Service America** are offering \$500 **grants** with \$500 in **books** to youth-led service projects held from March 2, Read Across America Day, to Global Youth Service Days, April 15–17, 2011. [Click Here for More Information](#)

Science

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Congratulations to Matt Powell-Palm, a junior at Belgrade High School. On February 22, Matt was awarded an Ecostar award from Governor Brian Schweitzer for his efforts in helping to raise awareness of environmental issues through education. The Ecostar award program, now in its 11th year, recognizes small businesses, institutions and non-profits that

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are leading efforts in Montana to voluntarily focus on pollution prevention and create a more environmentally sustainable model for business and education. The award focuses on those taking environmentally responsible steps to reduce solid and hazardous waste, maximize efficiencies, conserve energy and water, and improve air quality. This year 27 small businesses, institutions and non-profits from across the state were honored. Matt is president of the student-led Belgrade High Renewable Energy Club and has organized a conference for students and educators to be held in March (see this newsletter for more information). Congratulations, Matt!

Free Lesson Videos! The 53 public use lessons collected as part of the TIMSS video studies are now available for everyone on a new Web site, timssvideo.com. Users must register on the site to access the videos, but registration is free. In addition to the 53 full-length videos of eighth grade mathematics and science lessons from seven countries, the site also provides full English-translation subtitles for each lesson, a searchable transcript, and a set of resources collected with each lesson such as scanned text materials and teacher commentaries. The site also includes a discussion forum where users can share ideas for how they are using the site, and can suggest new features that might be added in the future. The site is a project of UCLA and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Funding was provided by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Manipulative of the Month-Macromolecules (High School) Each month we will feature a different science manipulative for use in your classroom. This month's manipulative is for high school life science teachers. Students examine information on cards and determine which macromolecule best fits the description. Then they place the card in the correct place on the poster. This manipulative can be done with individual students or in small groups and is a great way to formatively assess your students. All of the materials can be found in this document! [Macromolecule Function Station](#)

[Discovery Education Free Resources](#) Discovery Education offers a variety of free resources for K-12 teachers of all content areas on their Web site. Lesson plans, clip art, and Brain Boosters are just a few of the many resources at your fingertips. Check it out!

First Annual Montana Green Conference for Students and Educators! The students of the Belgrade High Renewable Energy Club officially invite you and your school to the first (annual) Montana GreenCon to be held March 10 and 11 at Belgrade High School.

This event employs a multidisciplinary approach to the future of sustainability and promises to be a one-of-a-kind experience for Montana high schoolers, featuring renowned speakers from a variety of fields, including (but not limited to):

- sustainable agriculture
- hydrogen fuel alternatives

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- eco-capitalism
- solar nanotechnology
- school efficiency measures

Hosted by the students of the Belgrade High Renewable Energy Club, this event is not only aimed at students, but is being organized and will be orchestrated by students across Montana's many high schools. They are also currently looking for enthusiastic students from your schools to prepare a presentation/workshop (as interactive as possible), on a topic of their choosing. Please send a message to the e-mail address provided below if you would like a list of suggested topics. We're excited to work with you!

If you and your students are interested in attending this event (as you well should be!), or need more information, please send an e-mail to Matt Powell-Palm, President of the Belgrade High School Renewable Energy Club, at matt.the.funk.machine@gmail.com as soon as possible. Furthermore, it would be much appreciated if you could provide any interested students with the e-mail address above. We'd love to get as many students involved in the staging of this event as possible!

Required of each attending school will be a 2-5 minute PowerPoint presentation, to be presented by a representative student, on the sustainability efforts being made by your school as of March, 2011. If this is a problem, for whatever reason, please send me a message, and we'll work things out.

Please feel free to bring as many students as are interested-- just send an approximation with your e-mail confirmation so that we can plan meals and accommodations accordingly.

With the number of schools and students who've already expressed interest, accompanied by our all-star cast of speakers and contributors, this convention promises to establish a new standard for high school green initiatives the nation over. With your help, this will be the first Montana GreenCon, but certainly not the last!

Qwest Science/Mathematics Teachers Present at Springtime Conference April 8 – 10, 2011, Montana middle and high school teachers who are participating in the Qwest Science and Mathematics Leadership program will share technology enhanced lessons during "STEM in the 21st Century Classroom," the theme of this year's annual technology conference held at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake. The focus is technology as a pedagogical tool applied to Science, Engineering and Mathematics content to reach students with different learning styles. Issues addressed for grade 7 - 12 teachers include:

- Using technology to make teaching more effective;
- Extending your classroom (e.g. Moodle); and
- Teaching and sharing with others in the world (e.g. Podcast).

Qwest teachers have been using this technology in their classrooms and are eager to relate their experiences and share information. Qwest Montana (David Gibson, President) has funded this multi-year in-service to develop teachers who are ambassadors of math and science to peers, students and community members.

For more details concerning the STEM science and math technology conference, go to www.montanalearning.org, Programs – Springtime in the Rockies Conference, or contact MLC directly though cbock@montana.learning.org and/or (406)475-3638.

Call for Nominations. It is time to nominate teachers for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). PAEMST is the highest recognition that a kindergarten-12th grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Presidential awardees receive a citation signed by the President of the United States, a trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. This year Secondary school math and science teachers (grades 7-12) may apply or may be nominated by others. Nominations will be accepted until April 1, 2011. Teachers who apply must meet a May 2, 2011 deadline. For more information visit the PAEMST Web site. [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](http://www.paemst.org)

Dream. Engineer. WISH. Women In STEM High School Aerospace Scholars

Engineer your dream job! Your adventure begins in spring 2011 with an online community and culminates with a summer experience at NASA Johnson Space Center in summer 2011. Collaborate with girls from across the country and female NASA engineers and interns. Get ready to start your dream! For specific project information, visit <http://wish.spacegrant.org>. Deadline: March 14, 2011.

This opportunity is provided by Teaching from Space, a NASA education program. Teaching from Space promotes learning opportunities and builds partnerships with the education community using the unique environment of space and NASA's human spaceflight program.